

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicants' present application. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 17 and 21 and added Claim 30. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments. Thus, Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed March 15, 2006. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. More specifically, the Examiner states that the limitations of enabling the second object to utilize the selected asset until the second object attempts to modify and thereafter disabling the second object's ability to utilize the selected asset and enabling the second object to modify and utilize the copy of the selected asset are not supported by the specification. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner states in the Official Action that the specification does not describe "how to prevent the second object from utilizing the asset and at the same time having the second object modify – utilize – the asset. Modification is utilization...[i]t appears that there is a contradiction in this claim is prevented from utilizing the asset, when the second object is modifying the asset, it is not clear how the second object is prevented from utilization, yet continues to modify – utilize – the asset."

Paragraph [0034] of the specification recites:

While the IMPOSE and CO-OWN modes are relatively straightforward, the INHERIT mode is more complicated. Parent 21 shares assets with child 23 using the INHERIT mode. The INHERIT mode is similar to the CO-OWN mode in that both parent 21 and child 24 can freely utilize the assets and, initially, both have rights to modify the assets. The INHERIT mode is distinctive, however, in that child 23 cannot actually modify the shared assets. When child 23 attempts to modify one of the assets, a copy of that

asset is created for use by the child. Thus, there are two copies of the same asset (which was previously shared between the parent and the child). The child then the modifies its own copy of the asset. Thereafter, child 23 utilizes its modified copy of the asset rather than the shared asset. Parent 21 continues to use the asset which it originally shared with child 23. If this asset is shared with any other children, those children continue to use the asset of parent 21.

Note then, that there are many forms of utilization of an object, for example displaying the asset. Thus, while the Examiner is correct that modification is utilization, it is not the case that utilization encompasses solely modification, utilizing an asset may encompass many operations other than modification. Thus, an object may utilize an asset by performing a wide variety of operations in conjunction with an asset without modifying the asset. Notice also that Claim 17 states “enabling the second object to utilize the selected asset until the second object attempts to modify the selected asset.” Thus, in certain embodiments the second may utilize the selected object (e.g. may display the asset, or perform another type of utilization of the object) until the second object tries to modify the selected asset, at which point the second object is disabled from accessing the second object, the second object is duplicated and the second object can utilize this copy of the second asset. It would be apparent to one of skill in the art after reviewing the specification of the application, in particular paragraph [0034], how to implement access controls in such a way that an object can utilize (e.g. display, etc.) an asset in a variety of ways until the object attempts to utilize the object in one particular way (e.g. modification), at which point a copy of the asset is created and the object given the ability to utilize the duplicate of the object. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 17 and associated dependent Claims 18 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 17-19 and 21-29 stand rejected as anticipated by MyYahoo.com Help Pages, Archive .org, 1999 (“Yahoo”).

Claims 17-19

Claim 17, as amended, recites a method comprising selecting an asset of a first object; and sharing the selected asset with a second object, wherein the second object is a child of the first object in a hierarchical structure, wherein sharing the selected asset comprises enabling

the second object to utilize the selected asset until the second object attempts to modify the selected asset, making a copy of the selected asset when the second object attempts to modify the selected asset and thereafter disabling the second object's ability to utilize the selected asset and enabling the second object to modify and utilize the copy of the selected asset.

Thus, embodiments of the present invention allow assets or features of a website such as images, documents, page layout components etc. to be shared among objects which have a hierarchical relationship with one another. These objects may then share the assets such that the objects have equal rights to the object. If a child object attempts to modify an asset, however, a copy of the asset is made which then may be modified by the child object.

The Examiner cites generally Yahoo in rejecting Claim 17, claiming that Yahoo teaches that the main website contains assets which are shared with personalized websites. A user is allowed to configure a version of the Yahoo website so that it incorporates at least some of the content of the main website. However, there are certain assets that cannot be modified. The user can also rearrange the content.

The Examiner seems to be describing the functionality described in Yahoo, not how this functionality is accomplished. Indeed, after perusing Yahoo, Applicant cannot find all of the limitations contained in Claim 17.

More specifically, Applicant assumes that in the rejection the Examiner is assuming the Yahoo main page to be a parent object and a MyYahoo page to be a child object. However, Applicant cannot find where it is disclosed in Yahoo that a MyYahoo page is "a child of the first object in a hierarchical structure," as recited in Claim 17. While Yahoo discloses that a MyYahoo page allows collection of favorite parts accessible through Yahoo into one place, this is not equivalent to a parent-child relationship in a hierarchical relationship as recited in Claim 17.

Furthermore, while content which may appear in a Yahoo page may also appear in a MyYahoo page, Applicant cannot find where Yahoo discloses that the MyYahoo page and the Yahoo page share this content "wherein sharing the selected asset comprises enabling the second object to utilize the selected asset until the second object attempts to modify the selected asset, making a copy of the selected asset when the second object attempts to modify the selected asset and thereafter disabling the second object's ability to utilize the selected asset and enabling the second object to modify and utilize the copy of the selected asset," as recited in Claim 17. It is just as feasible that the Yahoo page and a MyYahoo page may contain the same content by virtue of "copying the assets from one web site to another." (See Application, Description of Related Art, Paragraph [0005]).

If the Examiner believes the Applicants' assessment to be incorrect, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cite with more specificity the sections of Yahoo which disclose each of the limitations of Claim 17 so that these areas may be better addressed by Applicant.

As Yahoo does not disclose all the limitations of Claim 17 Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 17 and its dependent claims 18 and 19.

Claims 21-29

With respect to Claim 21, Claim 21, recites a computer readable medium containing instructions configured to cause a computer to perform the method of selecting two objects which have a hierarchical relationship wherein a first one of the objects is a parent of a second one of the objects; selecting one or more assets of the first object; and sharing the selected assets of the first object with the second object, wherein each of the selected assets is shared using a mode chosen from a group consisting of a first mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, but only the first object can modify the asset, a second mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, and both the first and second objects can modify the asset, and a third mode in which the first object can utilize and modify the asset, but wherein the second object can utilize the asset until the second object attempts to modify the asset, at which time a copy of the asset is generated and the second object can utilize and modify the copy of the asset; and wherein the second object shares one or more selected assets with a third object which is a child of the second object, wherein the one or more selected assets are shared using one or more of the first, second and third modes.

Thus, embodiments of the present invention allow assets or features of a website such as images, documents, page layout components etc. to be shared among objects which have a hierarchical relationship with one another. The objects may share the assets according to three modes.

More particularly, the Examiner cites pages 1-3 of Yahoo for the limitation of "selecting two objects which have a hierarchical relationship wherein a first one of the objects is a parent of a second one of the objects," as recited in Claim 21. Pages 1-3 of Yahoo simply disclose a screen capture of Yahoo.com (Page 1) and a screen capture of a MyYahoo page (Pages 2 and 3). Applicant assumes that in the rejection the Examiner is assuming the Yahoo main page to be a parent object and a MyYahoo page to be a child object. Even so, while Yahoo discloses that a MyYahoo page allows collection of favorite parts of Yahoo into one place, Applicant respectfully submits that screen capture of two web pages, one of which may include content

which may be accessed through the first page, is not equivalent to “selecting two objects which have a hierarchical relationship wherein a first one of the objects is a parent of a second one of the objects,” as recited in Claim 21.

The Examiner goes on to say that Yahoo teaches that the main website contains assets, which are shared with the personalized websites. The main website, and the user have the ability to configure the Yahoo website as the main website and the personalized website that incorporate many of the contents of the main website. Again, the Examiner seems to be referencing the functionality described in Yahoo, not how this functionality is accomplished. Indeed, after perusing Yahoo, Applicant cannot find where Yahoo discloses the limitations contained in Claim 21.

While content which may appear in a Yahoo page may also appear in a MyYahoo page, Applicant cannot find where Yahoo discloses that the MyYahoo page and the Yahoo page share this content “using a mode chosen from a group consisting of a first mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, but only the first object can modify the asset, a second mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, and both the first and second objects can modify the asset, and a third mode in which the first object can utilize and modify the asset, but wherein the second object can utilize the asset until the second object attempts to modify the asset, at which time a copy of the asset is generated and the second object can utilize and modify the copy of the asset,” as recited in Claim 21. Yahoo makes no reference to how content which may be accessed through the Yahoo page is may be included in a MyYahoo page. It is just as feasible that the Yahoo page and a MyYahoo page may contain the same content by virtue of “copying the assets from one web site to another.” (See Application, Description of Related Art, Paragraph [0005]).

If the Examiner believes the Applicants’ assessment to be incorrect Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cite with more specificity the sections of Yahoo which disclose each of the limitations of Claim 21 so that these areas may be better addressed by Applicant.

As Yahoo does not disclose all the limitations of Claim 21 Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 21 and its dependent claims22-29.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected as obvious over Yahoo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,983,227 (“Nazem”). Independent Claim 1 recites similar limitations as Claim 21. Consequently, Applicant believes that the above arguments presented with respect to Yahoo in regards to

Claim 21 apply equally well to Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and its associated dependent Claims 2-8. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

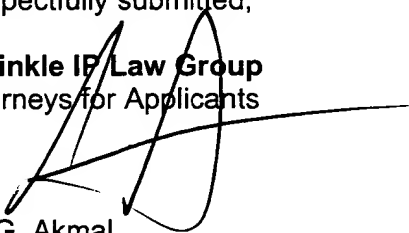
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-30. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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